

The Literacy Greenhouse: Seeds for a Lifetime



PRESENTED BY

Chris Mattatall, Jason Big Charles, Kim Barker-Kay, Miriam Ramzy, Michelle Bence, Marylou Dickson, Maria Walther, Sharon Skretting, Kelly Gibbs , Dr. Kathy Salmon, Dr. Robin Bright, Julia Lindsey, Claude Quevillon Lacasse, Lise L'Heureux, Geneviève Boutin & Pascal Lefebvre, Lana Lane, Angela DesBarres, Kim Tackaberry, Bev Smith, Irene Heffel & Various Presenters

FEE

\$125.00

QUESTIONS?

Contact Us:

403-381-5580

REGISTER ONLINE

Visit our website to register:

sapdc.ca



SERIES SESSIONS

Date	Time
August 18, 2025	8:30 AM - 12:00 PM
August 19, 2025	8:30 AM - 12:00 PM



LOCATION

Zoom Online Meeting - Zoom

Learning Opportunity

Time	Presenter(s)	Session
Aug 18, 2025		
8:30 to 10:00 AM	Julia Lindsey	Part 1 Audience: K-6
	Dr. Chris Mattatall	Brain Research - Learning to Read Audience:
	Maria Walther	Shared Reading Audience: K-5

10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	Jason Big Charles and Kim Barker-Kay	Oral Language and Storytelling Audience: K-12
	Lise L'Heureux	Linguistique 101 Audience:
	Julia Lindsey	Part 2 Audience: K-6
	Michelle Bence and Miriam Ramzy	Layers of Literacy Audience: Grades 5-9
	Maria Walther	Read Aloud Audience: K-5
	Claude Quevillon Lacasse	Enseigner la syntaxe de façon créative et intégrée grâce à la combinaison de phrases libre Audience: 7-12

Time
Aug 19, 2025

Presenter (s)

Session

8:30 to 10:00 AM

Lana Lane, Angela DesBarres, and Kim Tackaberry

Structuring the Literacy Block
Audience: K-2

Sharon Skretting

Artificial Intelligence & Backwards Design
Utilizing AB Curriculum
Audience: K-12

Kelly Gibbs

TBD

Marylou Dickson

Using an Untapped Resource: English-Specific Thinking
Audience: Grades 7-12

Geneviève Boutin

TBD
Audience:

10:30 AM to 12:00 PM

Dr. Kathy Salmon

Supporting EAL Across the Curriculum
Audience: K-12

Bev Smith, Kelly Gibbs, and Irene Heffel

Comprehensive Literacy Guides
Audience: K-6

Robin Bright

Building Strong Foundations in Classrooms: Tier 1
Target Practices to Support Literacy Development in Grades 4-8
Audience: Grades 4-8

Marylou Dickson

Using an Untapped Resource: English-Specific Thinking - Part II
Audience: Grades 7-12

Presenters

Chris Mattatall

Dr. Chris Mattatall is an Associate Professor of Educational Psychology and Inclusion in the Faculty of Education. He teaches in both the undergraduate and graduate programs, helping to prepare pre-service teachers for an exciting life as professional educators. An educator for more than 30 years, Dr. Mattatall also conducts research in areas related to the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, as well as early reading acquisition and intervention. He is also currently serving as the University of Lethbridge Board of Governors Teaching Chair (2023-2025).

Jason Big Charles

Kim Barker-Kay

Miriam Ramzy

Miriam Ramzy works with a leading school division in Alberta. The focus of her education, teaching practice, and professional development has been on early learning and literacy. Miriam has her Ph.D. from the University of Calgary; her doctoral work looked at early literacy learning in a grade one setting, with an emphasis on writing instruction and the role of printing and word study. Her passion for supporting teachers in building powerful literacy classrooms where all learners experience success drives her work.

Michelle Bence

Michelle's passion is literacy. She is an enthusiastic educator with over 18 years of teaching experience as a classroom teacher and literacy specialist. Over the past few years, Michelle has worked extensively with school boards across Alberta, investigating professional teacher learning and evidence-based early literacy practice. Currently, Michelle is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Calgary, examining the connection between oral language development and early literacy acquisition.

Marylou Dickson

Marylou Dickson EdD brings over three decades of pedagogical experience to the field of secondary literacy. Her doctoral research, culminating in an EdD, focused on the engagement of secondary discipline specialists with discipline-specific texts, providing a rigorous foundation for her expertise. Within the Edmonton School Board, Dr. Dickson has held diverse roles, including a tenure of over twenty-five years as a secondary English Language Arts educator in both traditional and virtual learning environments, departmental leadership, literacy intervention for students in grades 3-9, and consultancy in secondary literacy. Furthermore, she has contributed to higher education as an instructor of Secondary Discipline-Specific Literacy at The King's University. Her professional engagement extends to service as the secretary for the Northern Alberta Reading Specialist Council. Dr. Dickson's scholarly and practical commitment to the integration of literacy across all secondary disciplines has cultivated refined coaching skills, enabling her to facilitate the effective communication of discipline-specific literacy by secondary educators to their

students.

Maria Walther

Maria Walther, is a seasoned educator, author, and literacy consultant with over three decades of experience teaching first grade. Her practical, yet engaging approach to classroom instruction has made her a trusted partner for educators seeking effective teaching strategies. With a doctoral degree from Northern Illinois University, Maria is an avid researcher who continues to further her knowledge of literacy instruction. All of Maria's books are filled with helpful ideas for busy literacy teachers. Learn more about her consulting work and find other resources at mariawalther.com or find her on Instagram @mariapwalther and @ayear4thebooks.

Sharon Skretting

Sharon Skretting has 32 + years of service in education. She has served as a classroom teacher, instructional and assessment coach at the district level, and a principal. Her passion is to support teachers to increase student engagement and ownership for learning.

Kelly Gibbs

Kelly has spent her educational career supporting students with a variety of needs and supporting staff building instructional strategies. She wanted to know more about how students learn and why they had difficulty learning...so back to school she went! As a teacher and a Reading Specialist, Kelly holds a Masters degree from the University of Alberta in the area of language and literacy development and specialized assessment. She built her knowledge of UDL through her work at the University of Manitoba. Her work as a Consultant supported teachers in building inclusive practice in all divisions. She has in-depth experience doing professional development, with a focus on instructional strategies and implementation of such strategies. She has taught pre-service teachers at the University of Alberta for the past year. Kelly's joy has been found in supporting staff in the use of research-based strategies that make teaching and learning intentional and meaningful.

Dr. Kathy Salmon

Dr. Kathy Salmon was one of the principle writers for Benchmarks 2.0 and Benchmarks 1.0. Through her 23 years in public education as a teacher, EAL specialist, consultant, assistant principal and principal, Kathy understands the complexities involved in creating optimal programming and learning supports for English as an Additional language learners in the diverse school contexts. Kathy's doctoral dissertation was focused on Effective Teaching for EAL learners in Alberta and she recognizes the importance of understanding how English language proficiency connects to curricular content learning.

Dr. Robin Bright

Julia Lindsey

Claude Quevillon Lacasse

Lise L'Heureux

Geneviève Boutin

Pascal Lefebvre

Lana Lane

An Early Years Elementary School teacher by trade, Lana's career began in Grade 1. Since that time, she has been a teacher of Pre-K to Grade 2, a tutor, and K-12 literacy support teacher. As a trained RRSST (Reading Readiness Screening Tool) facilitator and Early Interventionist, the how of acquiring reading has been key in Lana's professional development throughout her teaching career. Consulting independently, working as a learning facilitator for the Learning Network and reading a plethora of books fills many of her days. In her spare time, she enjoys her role as a Family Youth Worker, and tending to her acreage north of Lloydminster. She's a proud mom to an engineer, nurse and aspiring teacher!

Angela DesBarres

Kim Tackaberry

Designer of Professional Learning for Calgary Regional Consortium

Bev Smith

With over 35 years of experience in education, including 25 years in the classroom, Bev Smith has a rich background in teaching and leadership. As the former Literacy and EAL Lead Teacher for the Lethbridge School Division, she specializes in literacy, English as an Additional Language (EAL), and fostering a culture of thinking. Currently, she shares her expertise as a Designer of Professional Learning for APLC - The Consortium at SAPDC, where she continues to champion responsive teaching and student-centered learning. Passionate about literacy and educational innovation, Bev is dedicated to shaping impactful learning experiences for educators and students alike.

Irene Heffel

Various Presenters

Registration Notes

Early Bird pricing of \$125 is in effect until June 1, 2025! On June 2, the price will be \$150.

Session times are fixed, however, some presenters / topics in each time slot may shift. A FULL schedule with descriptions will be sent out a few days prior to give you time to choose what sessions you would like to attend.

Recordings will be available for ALL sessions for 30 days.



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